



**MINUTES – MEC ANNUAL MEETING
4:00P.M. – 5:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Louis Albert, Bill Ardern, Rhonda Ball, Malena Barajas, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Teri Bohr, George Favela, Connie Greenberg, Ann Huber, Dr. Paul Kohn, Rebecca Kopec, Daisy R. Pitel, Peri Jude Radecic, Jo Riester, Jo Ann Sayre, Lisa Silveiro, Dr. Jay St. John, Molly Tylutki, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edward Nossem, Fran Embrey Senechal, Greg Kopec, Dr. Robert Breault, Nancy Montoya, Kirt Ijams, Bruce Wright, Fred DuVal, Molly Gilbert, Mike Hudak, Becky Pallack,

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DR. LOUIS ALBERT

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY, 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT – BILL ARDERN

ASSETS:

Current Assets:	\$159,852.21
Fixed Assets:	<u>1,619.84</u>
Total Assets:	161,472.05

LIABILITIES & EQUITY:

Current Liabilities:	\$ 14,956.43
Total Equity:	<u>146,515.62</u>
Total L & E:	161,472.05

Motion to approve March 2009 Financial Report: George Favela

Second: Dr. Jay St. John

Motion carried 19 to 0.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2010 MEETING MINUTES – DR. LOUIS ALBERT

Motion to Approve the March 17, 2010 MEC Meeting Minutes: George Favela

Second: Kent Barrabee

Motion carried 19 to 0.

4.0 ELECTION OF 2010-2011 OFFICERS

The MEC Executive Committee for 2010-2011 is as follows: George Favela (Chair); Dr. Paul Kohn (Vice-Chair), Bill Arden (Treasurer); Pat Wiedhopf (Secretary), and Dr. Louis Albert (Past Chair). The MEC Commissioners made a motion to approve their election for FY 2010-2011.

Motion to approve: Rhonda Ball

Second: Ann Huber

Motion carried 19-0.

5.0 SOLUTIONS THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION – FRED DUVAL, AZ BOARD OF REGENTS

Mr. DuVal thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present on Solutions Through Higher Education, a coalition of students, teachers, professionals and education supporters who recognize the need to invest in higher education today for a brighter tomorrow. Solutions Through Higher Education is also an educational campaign to promote awareness about the critical role that higher education plays in ensuring economic prosperity for our country and our citizens.

America faces a crisis in education that puts our economic competitiveness at serious long-term risk. Statistics and studies bear this out, yet the American public seems unaware of the severity of the situation. Education is and must be viewed as an investment in our future. The statistics show that Arizona, compared with other U.S. states, ranks 43rd in Percentage of High School Graduates Going Directly to College; 45th in Ninth Graders Chance of Going to College by age 19; 48th in State Need-Based Aid as a Percent of Federal Pell Grant Aid; 38th in Per Capita Personal Income; 47th in Percentage of Adults Ages 25-34 with a High School Diploma; 46th in Four-Year College Graduation Rates; and 39th in Younger Population with a College Degree. In order for us to compete effectively, we need to increase college degree production by one-third.

At the same time, the Arizona State Legislature has continued to cut funding for education across the board. The universities sustained \$191.5 million in cuts in FY09. The recent \$141.5 million mid-year cut to the university system represents a 13 percent cut in the funding the universities receive from the state. Keep in mind that these cuts follow the \$50 million cut the universities took at the beginning of the FY09, and the \$25 million mid-year cut in FY08—all of which had a significant impact on the universities' instructional budget. Some have stated that these cuts are only 4 percent of the universities' budgets, but this is misleading. Actually a large portion of university budgets are legally committed to specific purposes and come from sources other than the state general fund. The universities rely on several revenue sources to support teaching, research and services. Revenues come from the state in the form of general fund support; from students through tuition and fees; from generous gifts made by donors; and from grants and contracts mainly in the form of federal research monies. Because gifts, grants and contracts usually have restricted uses, those monies generally cannot be used to offset losses in state support. In FY1979, state appropriations to the university system constituted 19.4 percent of the general fund appropriations. Today, the university share amounts to less than 10 percent. This decline has been occurring at the same time that

enrollment growth has exploded across the university system, with headcount besting previous years by tens of thousands. This has forced universities to increase tuition and other sources of funding. The United States as a whole is also facing a crisis of competitiveness globally, which must be redressed through emphasis on and access to quality education at all levels, and higher education in particular, regarding workforce readiness and competitiveness, which has declined sharply in recent years. Mr. Duval drew historical parallels between other great nations of the past that were undone through lack of foresight and planning for their long-term future, and pointed out that the United States is facing a similar situation right now in terms of economic competitiveness and future prosperity.

Mr. Duval answered questions about the initiative, and asked the Commission to get involved in the effort to redress this situation, to alert their constituencies to Solutions Through Higher Education, and to share with our state representatives their support for the governor's budget, the value of our universities, and the need for access for our students. He urged the Commission to ask our leadership to support the governor's budget proposal and seek alternate revenue sources to solve our budget gap.

6.0 UA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK – BRUCE WRIGHT

Bruce Wright, UA Associate VP for University research Parks, and Molly Gilbert, UA Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of University Research Parks, presented on the planned UA Biosciences Park and the active role the MEC's could play in the project. The University's new biosciences park will provide a separate facility designed especially for companies working in biosciences, biotechnology, life sciences and pharmaceuticals. Its sophisticated, high technology biosciences facilities will be integrated into a multi-use development, including a hotel and conference center, retail and residential development. The Biotechnology Industry continues to expand in its breadth and scope and affects an increasingly broad cross section of our society and economy. Sponsored by the University of Arizona, the Arizona Bioscience Park will provide an important link in the development of life sciences in the southwestern United States to other significant advances in global biomedical research, and will position the State to take advantage of high-tech gains. Construction on the project should begin in the summer of 2012.

Locally, this project represents a key link in the economic development strategy of the Tucson and Pima County region, and an important milestone for the University of Arizona. The Arizona Bioscience Park encompasses over 65 acres of buildings and open space located ten minutes south of downtown Tucson, Arizona. The new campus occupies a strategic location between Tucson International Airport (TIA) and the University's main campus. Located just off I-10, the site has excellent access from regional locations, and is a key element within a larger 309 acre Sinclair Planned Area Development (Sinclair PAD). The PAD is the single largest parcel of undeveloped land within the City of Tucson, and is the most significant infill project in the City's history. Key goals are to attract the leading minds in the biotechnology field from around the world; create a world class campus environment, representative of the region; enhance the University's competitive edge in biotechnology research, and facilitate the connection of biotech science to the marketplace. Several important attributes to a successful

Bioscience Park campus include the following: 1. *Mixed Use Campus*. A mixed use plan integrating housing, office, laboratories, and recreational facilities as well as hotel or conference facilities provide greater opportunities for success compared to isolated development. 2. *Association with a University*. Successful science parks gain access to the vast information channels and funding capabilities that Universities and other institutions can provide. 3. *Potential for Expansion*. Given the dynamic nature of the biotech industry, a plan that is flexible and allows for future expansion will be able to accommodate industry changes over time. 4. *Open Space*. To attract the best minds of the industry, providing a well designed, attractive campus is essential in the context of the life sciences field.

A Technology High School is also planned for the site, targeting a student population of 400 to 600 students, managed under the auspices of the Tucson Unified School District. It will be designed as a multi-functional, multi-district facility, serving broader community-based needs by providing a location for adult education, skills training programs and continuing education courses in concert with other educational providers, including JTED. The strategic location of the high school and University adjacent to each other reinforces the concept and importance of life-long learning and provides programmatic opportunities to offer educational outreach to the Tucson community. Additionally, the Park will provide full and part-time employment opportunities for all skill levels, not just in the biosciences/high tech fields, as well as internships.

The MEC's role in the project would be as a partner, with the possibility of a satellite Regional College Access Center location on the campus. Dr. Jay St. John, as MEC Infrastructure Chair, is on the Planning Committee for the project. Mr. Wright asked for the MEC's support and involvement, and answered questions about the project.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The budget is tracking appropriately, given current conditions. We will await decisions from Mayor & Council. We are preparing materials for the Federal Innovation (i3) Grant, and have employed the services of Martha Lee in writing the proposal. We are partnering with the University of Arizona and the Tohono O'odham Nation, where the focus of the project will be. Additionally, we will also be applying for the annual disbursement of Tohono O'odham Nation 12% Gaming Funds.

7.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon –Dr. June Webb-Vignery

The 20th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 30, 2009, at the Desert Diamond Hotel & Casino. We have secured participation of City Council Members and Pima County Board of Supervisors in the program and awards presentations. We will also place an ad in the Arizona Daily Star in a Sunday edition before the event. We have 39 tables so far; our target this year is 40 tables total, so we are near capacity. Commissioners were asked to secure donations for the International Media presentation at the event, as more funds are needed to cover their expenses.

7.3 Appointments – Pat Wiedhopf

Teri Bohr has been nominated to replace Mark DeWeerd, representing Arizona Education Association Teachers, grades K-6.

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion carried 19-0.

7.4 YAC/TTC – Fran Embrey Senechal

The 2010 Outstanding Teen Citizens will be presented to the Mayor & Council on April 27th at 5:30p.m. Charter members of the YAC/TTC will be attending the Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon and will be recognized. Joshua Enos addressed the LULAC Education Banquet on 1st. YAC/TTC programs for FY 2009-2010 are now winding down.

7.5 Issues – George Favela / Karla Garcia (RCAC) (Karla Garcia not in attendance)

The RCAC Strategic Planning Committee is preparing a first draft of a Five-Year Plan; Mary Jondrow of Pima/Santa Cruz Tech Prep Consortium is the Chair. To date the RCAC website has 2,049 student accounts, 268 school counselor accounts, 18,358 website hits. There have been 180 phone/walk ins/appointments. Identified: 434 organizations serving youth; and 94 events have had RCAC presentations.

7.6 2010 Census – Malena Barajas

The MEC is the education representative on the Census Complete Count Committee. Malena requested that MEC Commissioners contact schools to place Census advertisements on school marquees and/or e-news. The Census forms are being mailed out now.

7.7 Key to Employment Workshop – Dr. June Webb-Vignery

Dr. June Webb-Vignery spoke with Tech Prep regarding seed funding for next year's event, and will be meeting soon with Mary Jondrow from Tech Prep and Event Coordinator Steve Peters for preliminary planning of the 2011 event.

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: Dr. Jay St. John

Second: Dr. Kent Barrabee

The motion passed 19-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

